

THE SHEKEL

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HIGHLIGHTS

The Jerusalem Crown

The Purpose of AINA

The Scope of THE SHEKEL

The Eshkol Medal

Hon. AINA Member No. 1000

20th Anniversary Specimen Set

Israel's 10 Crowns

The Seafaring Coin

and many others

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ראש הממשלה
THE PRIME MINISTER

Jerusalem, 7 February, 1968

Mr. Morris Bram,
President,
American Israel Numismatic Association,
New York, N.Y. 10007

Dear Mr. Bram,

I was pleased to learn from Mr. Yitzhak Avni, Director-General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, about the establishment of the American Israel Numismatic Association.

In respect of the coins and medals of Israel, I believe that it may fairly be claimed that, as well as illustrating in artistic and authentic form the ancient glories and present achievements of Israel, and the great figures of our chronicles, they are, in a way, 'metallic ambassadors of goodwill'.

In this context of a mission shared and furthered, I offer the Association and its officers my wholehearted congratulations and my confident hopes that it will play an important and evermore significant part in multiplying and magnifying the manifold bonds of reciprocity, sympathy and support between the United States and Israel.

Yours sincerely,

LEVI ESHKOL

Director General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. Congratulates A.I.N.A.



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AND
MEDALS
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LTD.**

4 February, 1968

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Mr. Morris Bram,
President,
American Israel Numismatic Association,
New York, N.Y. 10007

Dear Morris,

On the occasion of the foundation of the American Israel Numismatic Association, it is my wish, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, to extend this message of warmest greetings and sincerest congratulations to your fellow-officers and yourself.

We are more than pleased to learn that the Association has decided to publish a quarterly magazine, very appropriately named 'The Shekel', that will be devoted to Israel numismatics. It is our firm and gratified belief that, through the Association's efforts, by enrolling more and more members and by the widest possible circulation of 'The Shekel', the coins and medals of Israel will win the deep affection and abiding interest of American numismatists.

I do not have to stress how important will be the resultant growth of a mutually beneficent attachment to the State of Israel.

Will you be so kind as to convey our best wishes to all who conceived and launched the Association and our assurances of the wish and will to extend our closest cooperation to it, at all times, for the profit and the pleasure of every collector in the States.

Yours sincerely,

YITZHAK AVNI
Director-General

YA/vm

New Pan American Non-Profit Numismatic Group Formed by Popular Demand



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December, 1967

Dear Friend,

I am privileged to inform you of the formation of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC., which was founded as a result of the rapidly growing interest, especially during the past year, in Israel numismatics.

The A.I.N.A. is a non-profit organization, dedicated to the advancement of the knowledge of ancient and modern coins of Israel. It will devote its activities to creating new, and strengthening old, connections with Israel and its ancient and modern numismatic items, not only by increasing the knowledge of its members, but also by providing a forum in which member collectors can discuss and exchange views with other collectors.

The A.I.N.A. will do everything possible to assist, and to look after the interests of, collectors by providing current information on a regular basis, from first hand sources. One of the A.I.N.A.'s first steps will be the publication of a quarterly magazine - "THE SHEKEL" which, in addition to current information, will include articles by both American and Israeli collectors and Israel numismatic experts, as well as news of the activities of American Israel coin clubs throughout the United States.

Members of the A.I.N.A. will receive THE SHEKEL free of charge.

If you are interested in enrolling as a member to the A.I.N.A., kindly fill out and return the enclosed form.

We shall be happy to welcome you to the ranks of our members.

Sincerely yours,

Morris Bram, President

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Israel

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The Netherlands



The Board of Directors, sitting from left to right: Maurice Frankenhuis, Edward Schuman – Vice-President, Morris Bram – President, Nathan Sobel – Editor of "The Shekel", Max Vlotkoffsky – Secretary-Treasurer. Standing from left to right: Julius Turoff, Nathan R. Goldman, Michael Granis, Louis Schweiloch, and Edward Janis.

First to Congratulate A.I.N.A. on the Eve of its Formation



Mr. Joseph Milo, Israel's Assistant Trade Commissioner to the United States and Canada congratulates Mr. Morris Bram, President of A.I.N.A., on behalf of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation. Flanking them are the Officers and Directors of A.I.N.A.



From Alaska to Puerto Rico, from Hawaii to Maine. The mails arrived in avalanches from all States of the Union, from Canada, Europe and Israel. In the photo from left to right are: Max Vlotkoffsky, Nathan Sobel and Edward Janis.

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for the success
of the

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and its Journal,
on the occasion of the publication
of the first issue of

“SHEKEL”

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



To the Members of A.I.N.A., Shalom!
Dear Member,

In an effort to further the ties of friendship and understanding through numismatics between the people of the United States and Israel, we have formed this non-profit educational organization. THE SHEKEL, our official publication, is designed to provide an interchange of numismatic concepts to ascertain fact from fallacy, and to light the lamp of numismatics for the beginner.

Today, a few weeks after its formation, A.I.N.A.'s membership already numbers over 1,100 not only from coast to coast, Hawaii and Alaska, but also from Canada, Europe and, of course, Israel.

As President of the A.I.N.A., I am pleased to welcome you to the ranks of our members and readers.

Sincerely,
MORRIS BRAM
President

THE EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to readers of THE SHEKEL.
Dear Reader,

It is a most gratifying pleasure to greet you as a reader of "THE SHEKEL."

As the Shekel is the most genuine representation of Israel's coinage through the ages, so will we of THE SHEKEL strive through its pages to present as faithfully, developments in Israel numismatics and in A.I.N.A.'s educational activities.

THE SHEKEL is dedicated to providing collectors with current data and background information on the coins and medals of Israel — old and new.

THE SHEKEL will welcome your articles, suggestions or comments and is grateful to all those whose contributions to date have made this first issue possible. With this first issue of THE SHEKEL, let us establish an open forum for all collectors of Israel Numismatics.

Sincerely yours,
NATHAN SOBEL
Editor

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

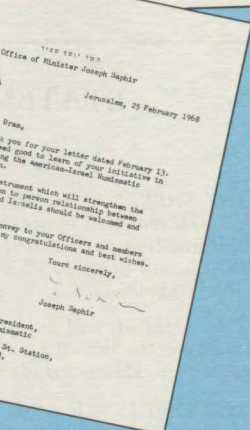
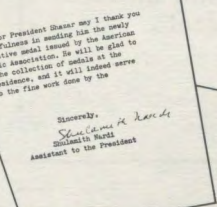
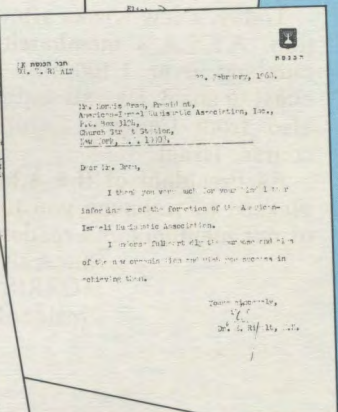
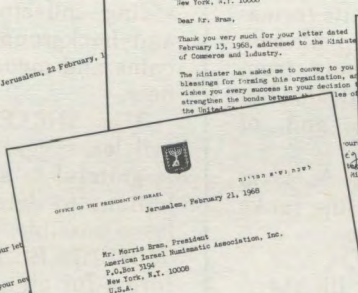
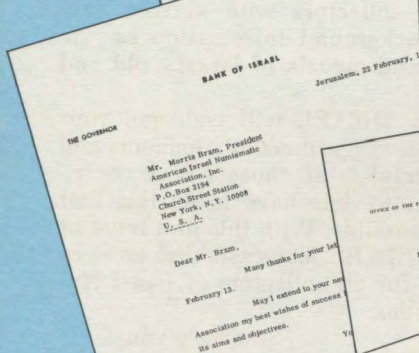
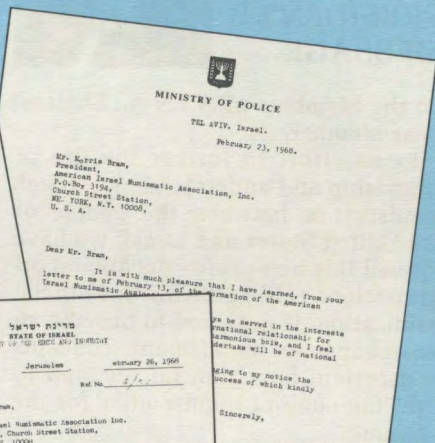
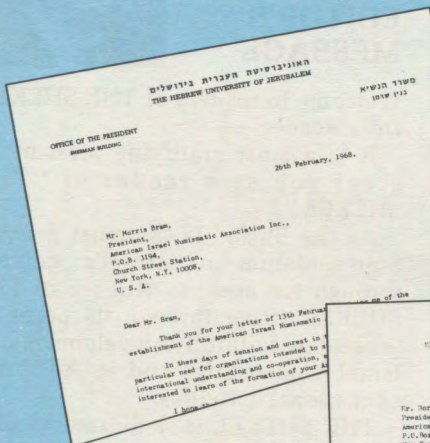
THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. THE SHEKEL will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

More Greetings to A.I.N.A.



Israel's 20th Anniversary

1968 Commemorative Coin — 10 Pounds



Israel's 20th Anniversary commemorative coin will be issued by the Bank of Israel on May 2nd, 1968, Israel's Independence Day.

The silver crown will once again be minted in two varieties: 35,000 in uncirculated condition. 15,000 in proof condition, bearing the Hebrew letter **מ** (mem). The coin will be 37mm in diameter, and weigh 26gm. The nominal value will be IL 10.00.

Description

OBVERSE: The nominal value of 10 IL and a replica of the Bar Kochba silver "SELA" on which appears a four columned facade of the second Jerusalem Temple. Upper right inscription "ISRAEL" in Hebrew, Arabic and English.

REVERSE: A schematic panorama of the unified city of Jerusalem. Upper left, the emblem of the State of Israel.

Especially to mark the 20th Anniversary Year of Israel, the Bank of Israel will also issue 10,000 gold proof coins, with a nominal value of IL 100.00. The diameter of the gold coin will be 33mm and the weight 25gm.*

Issue prices will be \$6.50 for the uncirculated; \$12.50 for the silver proof; \$100.00 for the gold proof.

All coins will be minted in the Swiss Federal Mint in Berne, Switzerland.

* Will not be available in the United States.



Israel's Prime Minister Eshkol Visits the U.S.A.

The Prime Minister of Israel and Mrs. Eshkol arrived for a U.S. visit on January 4th, 1968. H.E. Levi Eshkol and his wife were invited by President and Mrs. Johnson to be their guests at the President's ranch in Texas, where they spent two days, and held several meetings during which they discussed recent develop-

ments in the Middle East. While in New York Mr. Eshkol met with U.N. Secretary General U Thant and Mayor John V. Lindsay. At a Waldorf-Astoria dinner, on January 11th, given in his honor by the Committee of National Jewish Organizations, Mr. Eshkol was presented with the first A.I.N.A. medal dedicating his visit.



The Man Who Led Israel to Victory



**Prime Minister
Levi Eshkol**

LEVI ESHKOL is one of that treasured band of idealists, men and women of the second aliyah, whose faith and sacrifice transformed the neglected land of Palestine into the Jewish State of Israel.

Born Levi Shkolnik, in the Ukraine, one of nine children, of a prosperous Jewish family, the 19-year-old lad came to Palestine in 1913 to join the pioneers of the first aliyah in the communal settlement of Petah Tikvah. There he tilled the soil, dug drainage ditches and took his turn as watchman or shomer, until he enlisted in the Jewish Legion, as did two other heroic figures whom destiny was also to choose for the highest honors the Jewish State could bestow—Itzhak Ben Zvi and David Ben Gurion. After the war, Mr. Eshkol's exceptional organizational ability drew him into agricultural and labor executive posts in the growing yishuv. At the same time, he helped found the communal settlement of Deganiah Bet. One of the top jobs he held in pre-State Israel was that of Secretary of Mapai, which later became Israel's largest single party and the dominant factor in its successive government coalitions.

In 1949 when the stream of Jewish immigration became a torrent, his administrative abilities were coopted by the Jewish Agency as Director of its Settlement Department, and within a year, as its Treasurer. In these offices he was instrumental in organizing hundreds of farm settlements for immigrants and laid the foundation for the development of vast agricultural industrial complexes like Lachish, as well as Israel's new development towns.

Later he returned to government, first as Minister of Agriculture and then as Minister of Finance, where he worked brilliantly for eleven long years.

On June 26, 1963—he reached the climax of his career as Prime Minister and Minister of Defense. In these capacities he helped build Israel's Defense Forces and the brilliant General Staff that was to win the great military victory which has gone down in history as the Six-Day War.

The physical work performed by his hands, the contributions of his mind, and the spiritual power of his deep convictions, all continuously expressed over a span of more than half a century in the land, mark him as one of the very small group of truly historic personalities who may be said to have created the Israel of today and laid the foundation for the promise of tomorrow.

Speaking as one voice for the Jewish community of America, we extend our deepest gratitude to him and the people of Israel for the gifts of joy and honor they have given us.

Reprinted from the official program of the dinner in honor of the Prime Minister of the State of Israel LEVI ESHKOL and Mrs. Eshkol, tendered by a sponsoring committee of National Jewish Organizations, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, in New York City, on January 11, 1968.

A.I.N.A. Honors Israel's Prime Minister

Medal issued to coincide with Eshkol's visit to the U.S.A. and the formation of the American Israel Numismatic Association.

The likeness of Levi Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel and leader of his nation during the recent victorious six day war, was commemorated on metal.

The AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, soon after its formation in December of 1967, decided to honor Israel's Prime Minister on his forthcoming visit to the U.S.A., as an expression of friendship and respect to the Prime Minister and the people of Israel.

The Eshkol medal has been engraved by one of the leading U.S. sculptors, RALPH J. MENCONI, and was minted by the MEDALLIC ART COMPANY, which has been produc-

ing medals for many of the most respected organizations in America, for more than 67 years.

The medal has been minted in limited quantities in bronze, and in silver. The Bronze is 2" in diameter, and the Silver, in 1³/₄" diameter. All medals are serially numbered on their edges.

The single 2" gold medal minted, was presented to the Prime Minister at the dinner given in his honor, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on January 11, 1968.

Of special numismatic and historical significance is the fact that this is the only medal, with the present day geographical boundaries of Israel.



OBVERSE:

The Prime Minister's likeness, and the words "Levi Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel" in both Hebrew and English.



REVERSE:

The reverse features a map of Israel, the Menorah and the words "The Six Day War, 5-10 June 1967."

The Medal Presentation



Mr. Edward Ginsberg, General Chairman of the UJA presents A.I.N.A.'s medal to the Prime Minister, in behalf of the Committee of National Jewish Organizations.



A close-up of the presentation cases containing gold, silver and bronze medals. These medals are all numbered with Number 1 on their edges and are all two inches in diameter. The gold is the only piece of its kind, and the silver medal has an additional numismatic rarity, being the only two inch diameter silver medal.

The Seafaring Commemorative Coin

The Jewel of Israel's Crowns

BY YAAKOV MESHORER

The theme is seafaring, the intention being to express the indispensability of navigation in opening up Israel to the outside world. The seaways are still a principal means of preserving Israel's economic and social links with the rest of the globe, and, with unmistakable emphasis, the motif of the 1963 coin bridges the nation's maritime past and its current performance on the Seven Seas.

The ancient galley which is the model was found incised upon the wall of a tomb belonging to the Hasmonean era in Jerusalem (Fig. 1), that

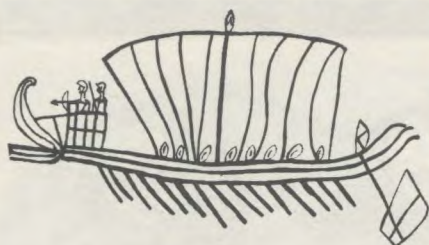


Fig. 1

Design of a galley incised upon the wall of a tomb in Jerusalem
(by courtesy of the Government Department of Antiquities)

is, of the first century BCE. It is a light ship-of-war with two banks of oars and a triple-edged ram. The sails are unfurled and secured to the bulwark by halyards. A triangular ensign of purple is at the masthead, and bears a Greek alpha. At the stern is an aphlaston. Aft the helm is a light tent-like superstructure with a round top, that sheltered the steersman. Behind the prow is a turret, with helmeted warriors upon it. The foremost of them

holds a bow and arrow at the ready, and the one behind him poises a spear in his right hand. The rest of the soldiers are on the deck, protected by their oval shields. (A detailed discussion appeared in 'Atiqot', Vol. IV — the journal of the Government Department of Antiquities, by L. Y. Rahmani.)

The following is a list of all the Jewish coins of the period of the Second Temple portraying ships; they testify to a virile navy and widespread Jewish seamanship at that epoch.

The first is one of Herod, minted towards the end of the first century BCE, presumably on the occasion of his founding of the port of Caesarea (Fig. 2):

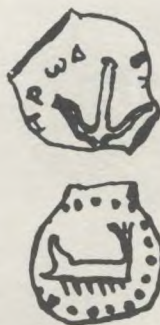


Fig. 2

Obverse: Anchor, around, inscription: HPΩ BACI (Herod the King).

Reverse: Sailing ship with aphlaston. Pearled rim.

Herod only struck that one coin depicting a ship, and that in very small quantity, but his son Herod Archelaus, Ethnarch of Judaea (3 BCE-6 CE), favoured maritime allusion much more.

Of six coins that Archelaus minted, no less than five present scenes of the sea, and three of those show ships. In the large coin (Fig. 3), and on the



Fig. 3

smaller (Fig. 4), the obverse has a double cornucopia and the inscription HPΩ (Herod); on the reverse is a sailing ship with oars, prow and aphlaston. Above is the inscription EΘNAPXOY (of the Ethnarch).

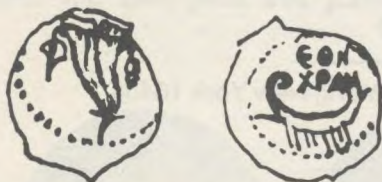


Fig. 4

It is fair to surmise that Archelaus had a flotilla based on Caesarea and Jaffa, at that time within his jurisdiction; he alone of the sons of Herod had dominion over the coast.

On another type of his coinage, only the ship's prow is visible, thus: (Fig. 5)



Fig. 5

Obverse: Prow of a galley and, around, the inscription HPΩ (ΔΟΥ) (Herod).

Reverse: A wreath of leaves, wherein the inscription:

EΘNAPXOY (of the Ethnarch).

The last of the ancient Jewish coins on which a ship appears is that of Agrippa II (50-96 CE, Fig. 6):



Fig. 6

Ancient Jewish coins portraying ships
(drawings by the writer)

Obverse: To right, head of Domitian and, around, inscription — DOMIT KAICAP.

Reverse: Sailing ship and, above, inscription ETO IOBA AΓPIIIII that is, 'the nineteenth year of Agrippa the King' (79 CE).

Other artistic renderings of ships are to be found on Hebrew antiquities, in murals, on gems and the like: here we have confined ourselves to those that come within the scope of Jewish numismatics.



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The Scope of THE SHEKEL

by Edward Janis

Out of an obscure factory in Tel Aviv late in the fall of 1948 came the initial link with other Jewish coins struck over 1800 years ago. Here, with this first coin, one could physically touch an absolute example of national sovereignty. Here, after the longest lapse in history, a nation continued its right as an autonomous self ruling free state to mint its own independent money. In the short span of eleven years, Israel changed the division of the Israeli pound from 1000 Pruta to 100 Agora, a new denomination.

In a scant two decades we have witnessed the two series show their diverse and rich varieties in the same coin viz. large and small planchets, varied metals, rimmed and plain edges, and even plain and plated.

tenary of the birth of Theodor Herzl, a commemorative five-pound silver and a twenty-pound gold coin were minted with a portrait of Herzl. After a practice of two thousand years standing, the numismatist, the student of The Bible, and the layman alike ask why?

This brings us to the basic purpose of the scope and depth of 'THE SHEKEL'. It is no mere coincidence that the coins of modern and ancient Israel hold such universal enjoyment and esteem. As the homeland of the three major monotheistic faiths, it is easy to understand the thrill of the Christian holding a denarius of Tiberius (the "tribute penny") or a Shekel of Tyre—a possible piece of "the 30 pieces of silver". The same Shekel of



Centenary of the birth of Theodor Herzl

**1960 Independence Day Coin
Nominal value 5 IL.**

Throughout all of the changes, one factor remained constant. The origin of design of the modern coins of Israel reached back into antiquity for its symbols and denominations. Back in 1944, Romanoff in describing the symbols used on the ancient Jewish coins, noted that human and animal types are absent. In 1960, the twelfth year of the State of Israel and the cen-

Tyre would excite the Jew — for here was a foreign coin with a portrait on the obverse, that was acceptable as the payment of the Temple Tax for two adult males. What Jew does not stand a little taller in comparing the grapes with tendrils on the silver denarius of Bar Kochba with the first modern type coin, the 25 mils of 1948-9. Byzantine and Arab coin

(Continued on page 45)

Coins of Israel

AND PALESTINE MANDATE



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A Medal to Commemorate Six Million Martyrs

by Maurice Frankenhuis



There are many branches of learning that lead to an understanding of the history of civilization. But perhaps not enough credit has been given to the role of Numismatics in this connection. Indeed, a systematic study of coins offers a unique and reliable means to insure a continuity in recording man's march through the ages and to fill in the gaps between the past and the present. The trained numismatist as well as the amateur collector find this art an exciting course of discovery and knowledge building.

The story of coins is about as old and has about as many chapters as the story of man himself. Through even the crudest artifacts, we can trace evidences of man's genius and creativity, as well as note his progress, his behavior and level of culture. Pick up a coin, examine its substance, note its place and date, its denomination and design. The trained eye finds these clues sufficient to reveal the character of a state or a people. The coin may disclose intimations of religion ("In God We Trust"); it may denote the form of government by its symbols (monarchy, republic, dictatorship); it may specify the sovereign force (king or deity); it may reflect the prevailing enlightenment or ignorance; and in the quality of its art it may measure the degree of advancement of the culture.

Numismatics therefore can be regarded as an encyclopedia of knowledge. It has a growing literature in the form of research studies, newspaper and magazine articles, catalogues, periodicals and books. It is a cause for special celebration that we can now add to this literature a unique new quarterly, *The Shekel*, which is to be devoted to material on Israeli coins, medals and related mementos. The title of the magazine is indeed felicitous, as nothing else could so meaningfully express the purpose and scope of its pages. We all know *The Shekel* to be an ancient money unit. Having originated in Babylonia, it evolved into a Hebraic coin, one of the earliest to represent, through its weight, a stabilized money value. Authentic old shekels are rare today, and

some of them are catalogued at values of \$1200 to \$1300 with dates traced to the first century A.D.

Living up to the title, the publishers aim to gear *The Shekel's* contents to special articles that will highlight the history of the Jews for the past 2,000 years, even including the late six-day war between Israel and the Arab nations. Thus it would embrace the gamut of Jewish life through two millennia of warfare, oppression, persecution and martyrdom. In successive issues, the reader will be admitted to a panoramic vista of 5 continents and 20 centuries through the manifestations of ancient, mediaeval and modern coins. The total effect of these articles will be a scholarly exposition of the travail of the "wandering Jew." And *The Shekel* will be worth its weight in gold.

This is a rich field of study, as was recently demonstrated by an exhibit of Israeli coins at the Grand Central Coin Show in New York, where Jewish art and history were effectively linked. Its impact on a large, youthful contingent who attended was electric. Boys and girls of school age — they manifested eager interest and a live curiosity. On that occasion, many embryo numismatists were born, determined to build their own collections, while we seniors nodded our encouragement. For any interest in the Israeli context, they can look to the pages of *The Shekel* for inspiration and guidance.

It is fitting at this point to single out for special commendation those who played a leading part in making *The Shekel* a reality. I would like to congratulate Mr. Morris Bram, President of AINA, Mr. Edward Schuman, Vice President and Mr. Max Vlotkofsky, Secretary-Treasurer, for their faith and vision in launching this new publication. Mr. Nathan Sobel, Editor-in-Chief, I offer best wishes for success in his happy new assignment.

It was seen at the recent exhibit that many coins that relate to Jewish history were not produced under Jewish aegis. The ancient coins and medals which primarily were made to honor famous non-Jewish figures were minted in Rome by the Roman government. They did however cut across critical lines of Jewish history and thus have become a part of the Jewish documentation. To illustrate: there is a famous group of medals known as "Twelve Caesars" (44 B.C. to 96 A.D.), commemorating the emperors who were involved in conquests throughout Asia Minor. Of these Emperor Titus is of interest because he commanded the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and carried away its treasures. A Roman *Judea Capta* specimen of 70 A.D. fits into a Jewish collection, inasmuch as it furnishes a dramatic contrast to the "Israel Liberated" medal of the year 5718 (1948 A.D.). The Masada medal in homage to the Jewish martyrs who took a stand against the Romans in the "First Revolt" (A.D. 60-70) glorifies Jewish martyrs of all times, and especially it is intended to inspire the Jews of today who are holding their line against their Egyptian foes. The Hebrew inscription warns: "Masada Shall Not Fall Again."

The intensified interest in Israeli coins and medals today corresponds to the world-wide attention Israel is receiving as a nation. The land of Israel (formerly Palestine) is as old as recorded history, yet it is among the newest states of our time. Since its establishment as a Jewish homeland, 20 years ago, it has become the only dependable haven for millions of the dispossessed from Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. So many Jews who survived Hitler can see no other solution to the Jewish problem than to settle, help build, and defend this little country that is their own.

(Continued on page 34)

20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL



Israel's annual Specimen Set of תשכ"ח 1968 features the Holy City of Jerusalem, and includes the newly-designed 1 lira (pound).

Thousands of North American collectors brought the 20th Anniversary celebrations of the State of Israel to their homes, when on February 20th, Israel released to the public its 1968 specimen sets. The sets, consisting of the six coins currently in use in Israel, were made available to U.S. and Canadian collectors by a network of 2,000 banking offices in over 150 major cities, and were sold out in a matter of a few hours. The operation was

successfully coordinated by the Israel Govt. Coins and Medals Corporation, the official government distributor for Israel Coins and State Medals; the man behind the successfully coordinated operation is Mr. Joseph Milo, Assistant Trade Commissioner to the U.S. and Canada.

The concept of this set is Jerusalem the Golden, unified after the six day war in June 1967.

(for full details see following page)



1

AGORA

Obverse: Incuse square within rounded corners showing three ears of barley, one of the seven species mentioned in the Bible. Ears of barley first appeared on the **pruta** coins of Agrippa I (43 CE); 'Israel' in Hebrew characters below and in Arabic to the left.

Reverse: The numeral 1 in the centre with the word 'Agora' and the year 5728 in Hebrew characters underneath.

Metal: Aluminium; weight: 1 gm; diameter: 20 mm; scalloped edge.



5

AGOROT

Obverse: Incuse square within rounded corners showing three ripe pomegranates; 'Israel' in Hebrew characters underneath and in Arabic to the left.

Reverse: presents the numeral 5 in the centre with the word 'Agorot' and the year 5728 in Hebrew characters underneath.

Metal: Cupronickel-aluminium; weight: 2.3 gm; diameter: 17.5 mm; plain edge.



10

AGOROT

Obverse: Incuse square within rounded corners showing seven-branched palm tree with two clusters of dates on right; 'Israel' in Hebrew characters underneath and in Arabic to the left. Design of a seven-branched palm-tree was used on the Roman 'Judaea Capta' and Bar Kochba coins (132-5 CE).

Reverse: presents the numeral 10 in centre with the word 'Agorot' and the year 5728 in Hebrew characters underneath.

Metal: Cupronickel-aluminium; weight: 5 gm; diameter: 21.5 mm; plain edge.



25

AGOROT

Obverse: Incuse square within rounded corners dominated on the right by a three-stringed lyre – the like of which appeared on the silver dinars and bronze coins of the time of the Bar Kochba Revolt (132-5 CE). Underneath, the word 'Israel' in Hebrew characters and in Arabic to the left. The use of the ancient musical instrument was considered a symbol expressing the Jewish people's yearning to restore the Temple destroyed by the Romans.



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Israel's Coinage in the American Numismatic Field

by Leon T. Lindheim



My serious interest in numismatics started at about the same time that I saw "The Numismatist," the monthly publication of the American Numismatic Association, for the first time in 1948. By 1951 I had joined the A.N.A. and by 1954 owned most of the back issues of "The Numismatist" back to January, 1901.

I mention all this because it was this fine monthly publication that first made me aware of the coins of the State of Israel. In the July, 1949 issue, under Club News, I found the first reference to the coinage of Israel pieces. At a meeting of the Brooklyn Coin Club, held on May 4, 1949, under exhibits it said: "E. (Ernst) Kraus: Israel 25 Mils 1948/49 the Hebrew date being 5709 in aluminum." Then, in the August, 1949 issue, under "New or Recent Issues—Described by Ernst Kraus," there was pictured and described both the 25 Mils and the 50 Pruta of 1949. Finally, the collector's appetite was whetted when the September, 1949 issue of "The Numismatist" published an article by Leo Kaufman of Tel Aviv entitled "The First Coins of Israel," when, in his closing paragraph he stated:

"It may be mentioned that, in the early autumn of 1948, a local factory in Tel Aviv tried to mint coins of dura-aluminum (25 Mils). The experiment was unsuccessful and, after coining some ten thousand pieces, the minting was suspended. These coins were not to be issued; however, owing to the shortage of small currency, the government decided to bring them into circulation temporarily (description follows). There is a very limited number of coins bearing the date "Taschach" — 5708 — 1947/48, while the great majority of these coins are dated "Taschat" — 5709. These later coins were minted much more crudely than those of "Taschach."

I believe that the facts related above were a great stimulant to numismatists to collect coins of Israel. Every 25 Mils that came my way was closely scrutinized to determine if it bore the earlier date. The other stimulant was the striking in 1959 of a limited number of 250 and 500 Pruta in silver for the collector. The 500 Pruta is truly a rare coin. With a total mintage of 33,812 pieces, and being Israel's first crown, it is truly underrated.

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Israel's tenth Anniversary Coin—1958, nominal value — 5 IL.

Designed by Miriam Karoli. Minted at the State Mint at Utrecht, Holland.



Shalom to A.I.N.A. from Amsterdam

by Matthew J. Van Der Voort



The President of the recently founded A.I.N.A., my friend Morris Bram, talked me into joining the Association, and although I am not a collector, I joined the new Association with much pleasure. What else could I do, since I coined the phrase: Numismatics is the Pilgrimage of Mankind Struck in Metal and it Knows no Boundaries? Therefore, I welcome the

founding of the new Association, since it only can underline my above mentioned adagium.

May I introduce to the reader of the first issue of "The Shekel" an extremely rare ancient coin.

It happens to be a coin of Antiganus Mattathias struck between 40-47 AD thus being from the time of the Second Revolt under Bar Kochba.

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Assuming that only a relatively small number of numismatists became interested in the coins of Israel in the 1949 to 1951 period, many times this "small number" seriously became interested when, in 1958, the first commemorative coin was announced. The June, 1958 issue of "The Numismatist" ran an advertisement of the "Israel Philatelic Agency in America, Inc. Numismatic Division." This full page ad announced the striking of the first 5 IL Independence Day Coin, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, and stating that only 100,000 regular coins plus 2,000 proof coins had been struck. The ad further stated that 65,000 were for distribution in Israel and only 35,000 for the rest of the world.

Not only have the striking of a new 5 IL piece each year been a stimulant to collecting of coins of Israel, but the project, started in 1965, of offering specimen sets to the public made collectors of Jews and Gentiles who never before collected coins. My bank has participated in the sale of these sets since 1966. If my memory serves

me correctly, we sold 2,000 sets in 1966, 3,000 in 1967 and expect to sell 5,000 in 1968. The splendid cooperation of Joseph Milo, representing the Government of Israel, and of Yitzhak Avni, Director-General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, Ltd. in Jerusalem, has made the banks' job of selling very easy. Their imagination in planning an advertising and sales program has made it extremely simple for any bank to participate in this annual sale of specimen sets. And because, with foresight, they have seen that the quantity was limited (150,000 in 1965, 155,000 in 1966, 155,000 in 1967), the collector has been pleased that he has acquired a potentially scarce set.

To sum up . . . coins of Israel have become popular collectors items. Provided the 5 IL Independence Day coins are issued each year, and in limited numbers, and provided the specimen sets are issued in the future in an unbroken series, year by year, coins of Israel should become increasingly more popular with the American collector.

The History of Modern Israel's First Coin, Banknote and Medal

by Sylvia Haffner



On May 15, 1948, the Third Jewish Commonwealth was restored, known as the State of Israel. The new Government of Israel invited the Israel Numismatic Society to submit proposals for the new coins and their designs. Leo Kadman and Hannan Pavel, members of the Society; Otte Wallish, the designer; and Mr. A. Eylon, Government Printer of Israel submitted designs for eight coins, these designs were taken from ancient Jewish coins issued 2000 years ago. In July of 1948, the proposed coin designs were accepted.

FIRST COINS

The first coin of the new State of Israel, the 25 Mils was struck in Israel in August of 1948. The first coin of Israel was not very successful: the production was extremely slow and the execution of the artistic and technical factors was very poor. This short-lived coin was minted under difficult conditions... during the height of the Israel-Arab War of 1948. The dies were cut by the late Mr. Moshe Munro of Jerusalem, and the coins were struck by Alfred Salzman in a mechanical workshop owned by Derech Beit Lachman, in Jerusalem. There were later strikings in Holon near Tel-

Aviv. In fact, many tales have been told about the striking of the 25 Mils in other locales, but have not been verified.

It was decided not to release the coins for circulation after the first striking, but due to the great shortage of small currency they were brought temporarily into use. The design on the obverse of the 25 Mils, the cluster of grapes with leaf and tendril, was repeated on the 25 Pruta of 1949. The estimated mintage figures by the Bank of Israel are: 42,650 dated 1948 and 650,000 dated 1949. The 25 Mil denomination has been completely withdrawn and ceased to be legal tender in Israel on June 9, 1950.

The rarest coin of Israel in gem uncirculated condition is the 1948 25 Mils. As the Mil denomination was struck in duro aluminum, which is quite soft, it is difficult to find a specimen in choice condition, unless the planchets have been polished. Because of the conditions of the 1st issue it is unlikely that the workshop had the necessary equipment to do these refinements.

Both dates of the 25 Mils have been found with rotated dies. The 1948 issue has been found in only a few positions of rotation and only to the



left, whereas the 1949 issue has been found with practically every position on the clock and is quite common. There are many minor die varieties of the 25 Mils, large berries, small berries, high relief, low relief, etc. It seems that a new die was cut for every one that wore out, rather than working from a master die.

Due to the lack of equipment and technical ability, the Israel Government decided to farm out the mintage of the Pruta series to the English mints. The 25 Mil denomination is the only coin of the State of Israel dated 1948 and has the distinction of being the first coin struck in a Jewish Commonwealth in 2000 years.

FIRST BANKNOTES

The first banknotes of Israel were issued in August of 1948 by the Anglo-Palestine Bank Ltd. The Provisional Government of Israel sent the late E. L. Hoofien, who was General Manager of the Anglo-Palestine Bank, to the United States at the beginning of 1948 to place an order for banknotes for the proposed State of Israel. Difficulties arose when the American Banknote Company informed Mr. Hoofien that: the printing of banknotes for Palestine at the time of the British Mandate was illegal; the company only printed banknotes for governments of sovereign states, which Israel was not at the time; the name of the monetary unit as well as the name of the future issuing authority was unknown; and that delivery could not be expected sooner than 18 months after the order was placed.

The American Banknote Company finally consented to print the notes with delivery in three to four months. As the name of the future central bank was still unknown, nor the future denomination for the notes, the banknotes were printed in the name of Anglo-Palestine Bank Ltd., and in

units of the Palestine Pound. The notes could not contain a legal tender clause because of the absence of a legal parliament. After the notes were delivered to Israel, they were overprinted with the legend, "LEGAL TENDER FOR PAYMENT OF ANY AMOUNT", on both the face and the back of the notes in Hebrew, English and Arabic. The American Banknote Company would not allow the use of its name on the banknotes because it felt the notes were not up to its usual standards.

The banknotes were released on August 18, 1948. No one took notice of the fact that the denomination "Palestine Pound" was printed on the notes whereas the monetary unit of Israel had been established the "Israel Pound" on August 17th. The notes were issued in the denominations of 500 Mils, 1, 5, 10 and 50 Pounds all dated 1948. They were withdrawn in June of 1953, and are no longer legal tender. The 50 Pound note of 1948 is extremely rare, the writer has knowl-

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...1,000 in 1 month!

Margo Russell

Our First Honorary Member No. 1,000



Margo Russell, editor of *Coin World*, recently observed her 30th anniversary as a working newspaper woman. She began her career on The Sidney, Ohio, Daily News, sister publication of *Coin World*.

In 1960, Mrs. Russell transferred her writing interests to numismatic journalism, when *Coin World* was founded. She has watched the weekly newspaper grow to the world's largest hobby publication.

In 1964, Mrs. Russell was appointed by President Johnson to serve as a member of the Assay Commission; later, she and her husband, Marion Russell, managing editor of The Sidney Daily News, were guests at the White House. Mrs. Russell has testified in behalf of the hobby before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, and covered eight American Numismatic Association Conventions.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell covered the historic Smithsonian Institution Bicentennial observance of the birth of its founder, James Smithson, in September, 1965.

A member of the major numismatic organizations and honorary member of many collector groups across the

country, Mrs. Russell has lectured at numismatic classes at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Purdue and Roosevelt Universities and at a number of state and regional numismatic educational forums. She was named 1965 numismatic woman of the year by the New England coin clubs.

In 1967 she was awarded the American Numismatic Association's Medal of Merit in Miami Beach, Florida. The citation which accompanied Mrs. Russell's honor read:

"You have contributed to our hobby on the local, state and national levels. You have brought professionalism to numismatic journalism and have contributed in no small measure to the enormous growth of our hobby.

"As editor of *Coin World* you have reached out and publicized our association to thousands who otherwise would not have known of us. Your editorials have been a source of encouragement for the ANA. With your lecturing engagements to various clubs and numismatic associations throughout the country, you have added immeasurably to the stature of our hobby."

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12,000 in 1 year?...

Judacan Jottings

by Mel Wacks

The Jewish Shekel

This publication has chosen as its name the most famous monetary denomination in Jewish history — the shekel. The shekel was used in Biblical times when it designated a fixed weight of silver, not a coin. The word has survived and has even been absorbed into English as a slang term for money.

There is only one coin that has the shekel denomination specified in the coin's design; it was struck during each of the five years of the First Jewish Revolt (66-70 C.E.). This was the earliest attempt of the Jews to rid themselves of the Roman yoke especially as imposed upon them by the immoral and corrupt Procurators of Judaea.

This same period saw a complete set of denominations produced — the silver shekel, half shekel, and quarter shekels, the bronze half, quarter and "eighth" shekels, and the prutah.⁽¹⁾

The shekel has aroused the interest of collectors and noncollectors alike for hundreds of years. And it is only recently, thanks to the fantastic coin hoards found at Masada, that the dating of the Jewish shekels has been definitely established.

For a long period of time the shekel was mistakenly believed to form the infamous "thirty pieces of silver". Copies were made as early as the middle of the sixteenth century; these were often sold as souvenirs and sometimes as the real thing.

Most citizens of Judaea were taxed a half shekel per year. The tax was payable in the coinage of Tyre, a Phoenician city, and was deposited in the treasury of the Temple at Jeru-

salem. This was the source of the silver used by the Jewish revolutionaries to strike their own coins. These were the first silver coins struck by a free Jewish authority. They were of excellent design and workmanship and must have been a source of great pride to its minters.

It is interesting to compare this situation to the one that the followers of Simon Bar Kochba found themselves in during the Second Revolt (132-135 C.E.). Since the Temple had been destroyed by Titus in 70 C.E. there was no longer a Temple treasury and therefore all of Bar Kochba's coins had to be struck over older Roman and Greek issues.

The dating of the shekel has long been a subject for speculation among numismatists and historians. It has been placed variously in the time of Ezra, Alexander the Great, Simon Maccabaeus and the First Revolt with the last two choices being the most popular.

The major difficulty was that no shekel finds had been made under reputable archaeological supervision. But in the 1963-65 period several hoards of ancient Judaeian coins were discovered by Yigael Yadin at Masada, the last stronghold of the Jewish Zealots, which fell in 73 C.E. Hopefully the Masada finds will at last settle the shekel mystery. As Yadin puts it, "They constitute the largest group of shekels ever found in one location; and this is the first time that shekels have been discovered in a regular archaeological excavation and in a stratum which belongs without any doubt to the period of the great Jewish revolt."⁽²⁾



Obverse



Faceted Edge



Reverse



I. Genuine Shekel, year Three

The obverse of the shekel features a chalice. The initial issue had a smooth-rimmed chalice with a pellet on each side; the next four years had a pearl-rimmed chalice with no pellets. Hybrids of the year two also exist; each of these extremely rare coins has a smooth-rimmed chalice with no pellets.

The inscription utilized the ancient Hebrew alphabet (from which our own letters evolved) even though the "square" Hebrew letters (modern Hebrew) were already in general use. Evidently even then there was a desire to continue the ancient ways of the Jews. The legend reads right to left,

ל פ ג ו ז ל פ ו
L A R S Y L K S H
SHEKEL (OF) ISRAEL

The date is above the chalice. The first year contains only the Hebrew letter "aleph" representing the number "1"; thereafter a "shin", abbreviating the word "shanat" (year), precedes the year of the revolt. The letters bet, gimmel, dalet and hey then represent the years 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

א 1 Oct. 66 — Fall 67
א ו Year 2 Fall 67 — Fall 68
ג ו Year 3 Fall 68 — Fall 69
ד ו Year 4 Fall 69 — Fall 70
ה ו Year 5 Fall 70 — Summer 70

The reverse contains a plant with three blooms. This has alternately been identified as lilies, Aaron's rod,

pomegranates and most recently the *Zlzyphus spina-christi* (a thorn-bush).⁽³⁾ Three budding pomegranates are generally accepted to be the symbol shown. The inscription is,

א ו ש ד ק ח מ י ל ש ו ר י
H S H O D K H M Y L S H O R Y
JERUSALEM THE HOLY

The half shekel is similar to the shekel except for size and denomination.

According to Leo Kadman's corpus⁽⁴⁾ the Jewish shekels have an average content of 83.4% silver and 16.6% copper, range in weight from 12.32 to 14.37 grams (about the weight of a U.S. silver half dollar), have a size range of 20 to 25 mm. diameter and a thickness of about 4 mm. Except for the shekels of the year one and the previously mentioned hybrids of the second year, the edges were hammered producing facets giving these coins an appearance that is unique in numismatics. The first sign of a counterfeit shekel or half shekel is the absence of a faceted edge but this is not to say that the presence of a hammered edge is a guarantee of genuineness.

There are roughly 1000 shekels and half shekels now extant, mostly of the second and third years. They are in great demand with the two "common" dates selling in the \$500 to \$1100 range depending upon the state of preservation.

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Obverse
II. Replica of Shekel
Year One.



Obverse
III. False Shekel



Reverse
(center piece)

Note: The Coins shown are from the author's collection.

(Continued from page 22)

The people of Israel are animated by a powerful idealistic and spiritual surge. While they have evolved a new modern industrial system of life, they have preserved traditions and folkways from the many lands in which they existed formerly. The struggle for existence has not interfered with the work of archeologists and scholars to build up stores of authentic historical knowledge. There is great respect for the archives filled with coins and medals which serve to illuminate phases of Jewish life on alien soil in the countries of Europe. One major area relates to materials that deal with episodes of World War II: the relevancy of such coins to a Jewish historical collection is obvious. There were over 500 different specimens struck by both the Allies and the enemy belligerents during the period of two world wars. By inference much of the content of such coins ties in with the Jewish fate, whose nemeses were the "men of evil and crime" shown on medals issued by the Germans after 1933. The odious Swastika embellishes such coins, but they must be included as valuable historical documents in the Jewish context.

Many of these sickening items turned up in the post-war and post-Hitler years. In time, the author, who had experienced all the indignities of the war and the concentration camps, became increasingly preoccupied with the idea of making a commemorative medal which would synthesize his haunting experiences during the war. It seemed to him that such a memento was needed to serve as an indestructible record of the crimes of the Nazis. This seed, once planted in his heart, was carefully nurtured until it came to fruition in the form of a bronze medallion known

(Continued on page 36)



THE WOODEN SHEKEL

The Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum, located in Berkeley, California, has announced a limited issue of "wooden shekels". This is the first token of its type distributed by a Jewish organization. The museum intends to produce a new design every year.

All of the money collected through the sale of the wooden shekels will go towards the establishment of a fund to purchase coins, medals and tokens from all periods of Jewish history.

The museum collects and preserves artistic, historical and literary materials illustrating Jewish life and cultural contributions throughout history. The Magnes Museum is, in particular, a repository for historical documents and landmarks of Western Jewry.

Established in 1962, the museum takes its name from San Francisco Bay Area-born Judah L. Magnes, founder of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Jewish Committee and Hadassah.

The wooden shekel was designed by Mel Wacks, the Numismatic Consultant to the Museum. The obverse is a "take-off" of the famous Jewish Shekel described elsewhere in this magazine. The inscription utilizes the ancient Hebrew letters and is translated as "Shekel of Wood" (Shekel MAH-ETZ). The reverse pictures the brick mansion which houses the Magnes Museum.

Further information can be obtained from Mel Wacks, 5744 Spruce Avenue, Sacramento, California 95841.



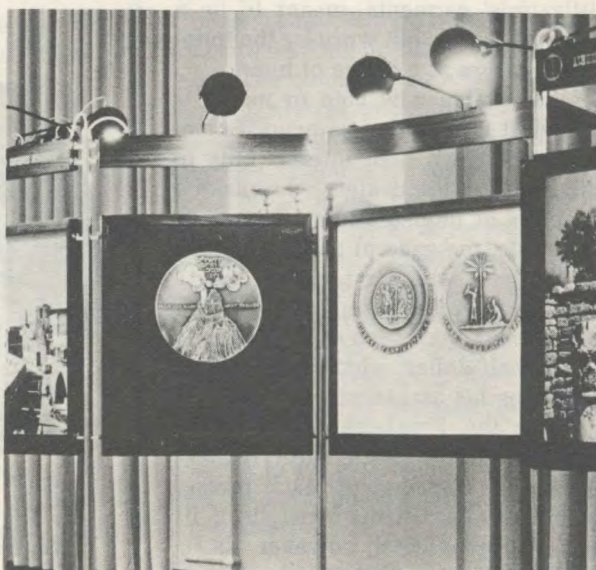
Prize Winning Israel Special Exhibit

Joseph Milo, Assistant Trade Commissioner, Government of Israel, receives the "outstanding exhibit" award from Morris Bram, acting as co-chairman of the Grand Central Coin Convention.



The ISRAEL NUMISMATIC COLLECTION, composed of 28 display panels such as those shown, has been exhibited at the Grand Central Coin Convention, sponsored by the Long Island Coin Club, at the Sheraton Atlantic Hotel. The idea of the display was conceived by Yitzhak Avni, Director General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, to enable collectors around the world to see the entire State collection. Every commemorative coin minted by the Bank of Israel since 1958 and all State medals struck by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, are included in the display. The collection was similarly displayed at the A.N.A. new museum in Colorado Springs, at the recent G.E.N.A. convention in Philadelphia and at the G.H.C.C. "Money Show" in Houston, Texas.

A.I.N.A. is looking forward to host this exhibit at its first Annual Meeting on April 28th, 1968.



(Continued from page 34)

as "A Tribute to the 6 Million." Elizabeth Nealon Weistrop, a distinguished American sculptor, skillfully executed the design in accordance with the medallist's deeply felt concept.

A MEDAL OF HUMAN SORROW

The Frankenhuis commemorative art medal has been carved out of human sorrow. It registers the overwhelming suffering he endured as he witnessed the fate of the Jews of Europe under the Hitler terror. The message is clear and moving to all. The medal depicts a mother and two children halting under police guard at a railroad station, before being herded onto the cattle car which will transport them to a strange and cruel fate ("the final solution"). Like countless others, this mother has been torn from the life she knew and loved and to which she had every right as a human being; now she faces the stark moment of abandonment which has been termed "an agony of death." Courageous, though tormented, she clasps her babes in a protective embrace against the surrounding nightmare. The eye can see the "Star of David" on the little girls' garments, meant to be a mark of shame, but worn by the innocent martyrs as a badge of honor.

Whenever a new coin or medal is issued, it is regarded as news. Sometimes the news is of interest only to the trade, to the dealers who make a business of buying and selling coins. As a rule, the general public (outside of amateur collectors) shows only a passing interest, except perhaps for sensational items such as the Kennedy silver half-dollar which was issued following his assassination.

Since the Frankenhuis art medal was issued only in a quantity of 500, it was not intended to reach masses of the people. On the strength of its sociological interest, however, its re-

lease was widely reported in the coin periodicals and the numismatic columns of large newspapers. Orders came flowing in, its limited supply was exhausted, and overnight it seemed to become "a collector's item."

The medal made a powerful impact on civic and religious leaders. It was warmly acknowledged by political leaders, from President Johnson and Vice President Humphrey to Governor Rockefeller and Mayor Lindsay of New York. Senators Jacob Javits and Robert Kennedy, as well as Congressman Leonard Farbstein, expressed their appreciation of this "moving tribute to the Jewish victims of the Nazis."

The medal has a place of honor in the studies of Israel's government leaders, among them President Zalman Shazar, General Moshe Dayan, Foreign Minister Abba Eban, and Consul General Michael Arnon. President Shazar wrote: "...how moving the Medal in tribute to the Six Million . . . It will take an honored place in my collection of medals at the Presidential Residence. . . ."

(Continued on page 37)



Ghetto uprising, Israel State Medal

Don't Miss Out...

American Israel Numismatic Association



*It is with pleasure that your association invites you to attend
the Inaugural Business Meeting and Educational Forum*

to be held at

SHERATON-ATLANTIC HOTEL

Broadway and 33rd St., New York, N. Y.

BALLROOM

Sunday, April 28th, 1968

1:00-6:00 P.M.

Exhibits and Lectures

(Continued from previous page)

Mrs. Margo Russell, Editor of *Coin World*, the world's largest numismatic weekly newspaper, conveyed her personal reaction as follows: "The medal is beyond expectations! It is magnificently executed and grasped and tugged at my emotions in an indescribable way."

Yaakov Meshorer, of the Israeli Government Coins and Medals Corp. was particularly moved, pointing out: "...coincidentally it arrived on Remembrance Day, which makes it even more meaningful."

Mrs. Ruth Methner, a survivor of the holocaust, wrote "...the medal brought tears to my eyes and all the experiences came back to mind."

This report would be incomplete without mentioning one glaring exception to the widespread praise that this medal elicited in the United States, Europe, and Israel. The *Katholische Kirchenzeitung* of Munich sent a "rejection slip." "Thank you . . . however we have no use for same . . . and

are returning it to you." But elsewhere in Germany, gracious acknowledgments were penned by Joseph Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, and by the office of Chancellor Kiesinger!

The medal expresses mankind's fervid hope that it cannot and will not happen again. Christians and Jews alike are backing up this hope by their outspoken commitment always to remember, always to be vigilant.

The Hebrew word for remember is "zochaur." That is the message of this medal. It does not strive to arouse a spirit of vengeance or to revive hatred and warfare; but it cries out from the sufferings of the past the ceaseless rhythm of "zochaur, zochaur!" In the words of Rabbi Dr. Joseph Breuer (K'hall Adath Jeshurun, New York): "The challenge of 'zochaur' does justice to your plaque in a striking way. It is greatly to be desired that this 'zochaur' be kept alive in all Jewish homes."

CLUB SECRETARIES What your Club does is news, and you are urged to share it with readers of the Journal. Please remember however that reports must be concise, telling (1) When it happened, (2) Where it happened, (3) What happened, and (4) Who it happened to. In addition to reports, Club Bulletins are appreciated as they often provide additional news items. Forward all material to the Editor. The deadline is the first of the month preceding publication.

Club News

FROM NEW YORK

February, 1968

On January 9th, 1968, the Israel Numismatic Society of N. Y. held a most interesting meeting at the Sheraton Atlantic Hotel. The officers-elect for the ensuing year were installed in office by Nathan R. Goldman, and they soon began their duties.

They are as follows:

MORRIS BRAM — President
ED SCHUMAN — Vice-President
JULIUS TUROFF — Treasurer
MAX VLOTKOFFSKY — Secretary

The meeting was an open one, and many wives of members were present. It is our belief that some were converted to numismatism as a result of the proceedings of the evening.

It was a matter of great gratification that so many members and their wives were present, because the weather was particularly bad, since it had been snowing all day, travel was difficult and many came from long distances. The large "turn-out" was ample evidence of the interest of the members in affairs.

The meeting ended with a collation that was greatly enjoyed by all those present, and the evening was an auspicious omen for the success of the society for the coming year.

On February 13th, 1968 a most interesting meeting was held during which the Board of Directors for the coming year was voted into office. The membership voted unanimously on a motion that our coin society affiliate itself as a charter member of A.I.N.A.

A very informative and interesting talk was given by Stanley Lechner on

the minting of coins. He traced the minting process from earliest times to the present and illustrated his talk with models and exhibits. His talk was considered so fine that he will repeat it at the annual instructional evening of the American Israel Numismatic Association to be held from 1-6 P.M. at the Sheraton Atlantic Hotel, 33rd & Broadway, New York, N. Y. April 28th, 1968.

Following the talk, the members were informed as to aims of the American Israel Numismatic Association, popularly known as A.I.N.A. and the first medal issued by A.I.N.A. was shown to the members. The medal elicited many expressions of wonderment and praise because of the likeness of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol as depicted on the medal. A photograph could not be more true or lifelike.

The members then exhibited new acquisitions and numismatic possessions with reference to coins of Israel past and present.

Submitted by: Nathan R. Goldman, Esq.

New edition of Sylvia Haffner's book

Mrs. Sylvia Haffner is now in Israel doing research for a new edition of her well known book entitled: *History of Modern Israel's Money*, to be published early in 1968.

The scope of the book will be broadened to include additional interesting numismatic data about Palestine coins before the British Mandate.

The revised work will also include the many interesting numismatic developments in Israel Coinage of the last year.

(Continued from page 31)

It has been Mrs. Russell's privilege to personally cover major news stories at the Philadelphia and Denver Mints and at the Bureau of the Mint in Washington since 1960.

Mrs. Russell considers her newest honor — membership in the American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc. — a special one indeed for she is an

(Continued from page 38)

FROM CLEVELAND

February, 1968

The Cleveland Chapter of the ISRAEL COIN CLUB extends its best wishes to your group and looks forward to "The Shekel".

Our group under the leadership of Robert Greene has grown from its inception 16 months ago, from 7 to 35 members. Our programs have been presented exclusively from within the membership and talent has been readily apparent. Further, our programs have run the gamut of Judaica and have illuminated the new collector as well as the old. Past programs have been presented on the Commemoratives of Israel and their manufacture, Medals of Israel, Agorot and die varieties, including the biblical symbols thereon. Paper Money of Palestine and Israel; What Is Judaica? Our program for February will be: How To Start, House and Display Your Collection.

Our group looks forward to your quarterly magazine and to the hope that our membership might contribute to, as well as receive, the fruits of our common objective . . . a strong Israel collecting fraternity that is well informed.

I would appreciate your sending me about 30 applications for membership, the same to be distributed among the membership. Thank you very much.

Submitted by: Stanley Yulish, Esq.

ardent admirer of Israel's beautiful numismatic material, both historic and contemporary, and considers presentation of news in this area one of the important functions of Coin World.

The collectors of First Day-First Issue covers named her 1967 Woman of the Year for her "outstanding support and contributions in behalf of this young hobby during 1966-67.

and from SACRAMENTO

Progress is being made by one of our members of the Board of Directors of A.I.N.A., Mr. Mel Wacks, in the organization of an Israel Numismatic Society of Sacramento. Mel is also an associate editor of "The Shekel".

All inquiries should be addressed to
Mr. Mel Wacks

5744 Spruce Avenue
Sacramento, California 95841



"And while we're there, let's not forget to visit the First AINA Forum" Sunday, April 28, at the Sheraton-Atlantic Hotel.

(Continued from page 33)

Since these coins only circulated for a maximum of seven years (66-73 C.E.) they are usually found with little wear. Most specimens carry a grade of very fine or extremely fine. However, other factors play a large part in their appearance such as corrosion, cleaning, and pressure (some seem to have been partially crushed by the earth beneath which they were buried).

FOOTNOTES

- 1 The unique surviving specimen of the silver quarter shekel is in the British Mu-

seum collection. The two largest bronze issues of the First Revolt contain only "half" and "quarter" in their inscriptions but are considered to be fractions of the shekel. The smaller "eighth" does not specify any denomination. The smallest coin generally available, the prutah, is also denominationless. Several tiny bronze coins (half prutah?) are also known but are extremely rare.

- 2 Y. Yadin, "Masada", Random House, New York, 1966.
- 3 W. Wirgin, "The Plant on the Reverse of the Thick Shekels", The Israel Numismatic Journal Vol. II No. 3/4, 1964.
- 4 L. Kadman, "Corpus Nummorum Palaestinsium Vol. III - The Coins of the Jewish War of 66-73", Schocken, Jerusalem, 1960.

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Write to : **American Israel
Numismatic Association**

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PLEASE NOTE:

Charter membership
closes June 30, 1968.

Interested in writing, critical book reviews, gripping yarns or personal adventure? Then share your experiences with the readers of "The Shekel".

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J. J. VAN GROVER

Numismatist

Israeli and U.S. Coins

Extends his best wishes to A.I.N.A.

Israel's 5 Pound Commemorative Coins

Issued each year on Independence Day

(See back cover)

Note: The following data are common to all 10 coins,

1. Metal: Fine Silver, .900
2. Diameter: 34 mm
3. Weight: 25 grams
4. Nominal Value: 5 IL (Israel Pounds)
5. Edge: Hebrew inscription of the year of the State of Israel. (All-incuse, except 1959 is raised)
6. Mem: The proof coins bear the Hebrew letter "Mem" for Meyuchad (special), or Melutash (polished), except for the 1958 coin.
7. Coin Surface: Both sides concave.

1958 (5718) 10th Anniversary MENORA

Obverse: "ISRAEL" in Hebrew and Arabic; date 5718/1958 in Hebrew and English; "5 ISRAEL POUNDS" in Hebrew. Designed by Miriam Karoli.

Reverse: Within an incuse trapezoid with rounded corners, a stylized seven-branched Menora. No proof mark. Designed by Miriam Karoli.

Mintage Quantity:

Unc—100,000. Proof—2,000. Minted at the State Mint, Utrecht, Holland.

1959 (5719) INGATHERING OF THE EXILES

Obverse: "ISRAEL" in Hebrew and Arabic; dates 5708-5719 and 1948-1959 in Hebrew and English; "5 ISRAEL POUNDS" in Hebrew. Designed by Miriam Karoli.

Reverse: Eleven immigrants in a circle left open; in the center of the circle, "THY CHILDREN COME AGAIN TO THEIR OWN BORDER" (Jeremiah 31:17) in Hebrew. Proof mark "M" at the center of the bottom rim. Designed by Rothschild and Lippmann.

Mintage Quantity:

Unc—79,000. Proof—5,000. Minted at the Swiss Federal Mint, Berne, Switzerland.

1960 (5720) CENTENARY OF THEODOR HERZL

Obverse: "ISRAEL" in Hebrew and Arabic, dates 5620-5720 and 1860-1960 in Hebrew and English; "5 ISRAEL POUNDS" in Hebrew. Proof mark "M" at bottom rim. Designed by Miriam Karoli.

Reverse: Above right, a portrait of Herzl within an incuse rectangle with rounded corners; below at rim, the emblem of the State of Israel; at lower left following rim, Hebrew legend, "IT IS NO LEG-
END." Designed by Andre Lasserre.

Mintage Quantity:

Unc—45,000. Proof—5,000. Minted at the Swiss Federal Mint, Berne, Switzerland.

1961 (5721) BAR MITZVAH

Obverse: "ISRAEL" in Hebrew and Arabic; 5721/1961 in Hebrew and English; an olive branch with ten leaves and three olives to symbolize thirteen years of independence; "5 ISRAEL POUNDS" in Hebrew. Designed by Zvi Narkiss.

Reverse: An ancient Ark and Scrolls of the Law, with steps leading up to the Ark; Hebrew inscription "BAR" at right, "MITZVAH" at left. Proof mark "M" at lower right. Designed by Zvi Narkiss.

Mintage Quantity:

Unc—20,000. Proof—5,000. Minted at the State Mint, Utrecht, Holland.

1962 (5722)

INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE NEGEV

Obverse: At left, "5 ISRAEL POUNDS" in Hebrew; below, "ISRAEL" in Hebrew and Arabic; dates 5722/1962 in Hebrew and English; to the right, a schematic and symbolic design of equipment of the petrochemical industry. Designed by Zvi Narkiss.

Reverse: A stylized crane against a background of bare hills; below in Hebrew, "ISRAEL SHALL BLOSSOM" (Isaiah 27:6). Proof mark "M" at bottom rim. Designed by Zvi Narkiss.

Mintage Quantity:

Unc — 10,450. Proof — 5,050. Minted at the State Mint, Utrecht, Holland.

1963 (5723)

DEVELOPMENT OF ISRAEL'S SEAFARING

Obverse: Smokestack of a modern steamer against a background of the Bay of Haifa and Mount Carmel; below, "5 ISRAEL POUNDS" in Hebrew; above right, following curve of rim, "ISRAEL" in Hebrew and Arabic and the dates 5723/1963 in Hebrew and English. Proof mark "M" on bottom rim. Designed by Zvi Narkiss.

Reverse: An ancient vessel fully rigged and with a bank of oars, modeled after an incised drawing on the wall of a Hasmonean era tomb in Jerusalem; below, in archaic Hebrew script, "YEAR 15 OF THE LIBERATION OF ISRAEL." Designed by Itzhak Behar.

Mintage Quantity:

Unc — 6,000. Proof — 4,500. Minted at the State Mint, La Zecca, Rome, Italy.

1964 (5724)

ISRAEL MUSEUM, JERUSALEM

Obverse: Replica of a capital from Ramat Rahel (7-8th century BC); above in Hebrew, "5 ISRAEL POUNDS"; below on the pillar, "ISRAEL" in Hebrew and Arabic and the dates 5724/1964 in Hebrew and English. Proof mark "M" at the bottom of the pillar. Designed by Barak Nachsholi.

Reverse: A stylized relief design of the museum buildings on "Museum Hill"; Hebrew inscription below, "ISRAEL MUSEUM, JERUSALEM." Designed by Barak Nachsholi.

Mintage Quantity:

Unc — 11,000. Proof — 4,500. Minted at the State Mint, La Zecca, Rome, Italy.

1965 (5725)

THE KNESSET

Obverse: Above left, the emblem of the state, consisting of a seven-branched Menora between two olive branches joined at their bases by the word "ISRAEL" in Hebrew; below this, "ISRAEL" in Arabic and the dates 5725/1965 in Hebrew and English; to the lower right, "5 ISRAEL POUNDS" in Hebrew. Designed by Barak Nachsholi.

Reverse: A stylized relief of the Knesset building, emphasizing the horizontal lines; below to the right, "KNESSET" in Hebrew. Proof mark "M" at the bottom rim. Designed by Andre Lasserre.

Mintage Quantity:

Unc — 25,252. Proof — 7,750. Minted at the State Mint, La Zecca, Rome, Italy.

1966 (5726)

THE CROWN OF LIFE

Obverse: Above left, "ISRAEL" in Hebrew and Arabic with the dates 5726/1966 in Hebrew and English directly below; "5 ISRAEL POUNDS" along lower rim, the numeral 5 greatly enlarged. Proof mark "M" to the right of the numeral 5. Designed by Selig Segal.

Reverse: A stylized inscription over the entire field, in Hebrew, "AM ISRAEL HAI" (The people of Israel live on), the word "HAI" being stressed; at lower left along the rim, the Hebrew inscription, "18 YEARS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL." Designed by Selig Segal.

Mintage Quantity:

Unc — 32,500. Proof — 10,500. Minted at the State Mint, Utrecht, Holland.

1967 (5727)

THE PORT OF EILAT

Obverse: The entire surface is filled with the numeral "5" in an impressive simplicity; below on the lower half of the "5" "ISRAEL" in Hebrew; below this "ISRAEL" in Arabic and the dates 1967/5727 in English and Hebrew; to the left of the "5" "ISRAEL POUNDS" in Hebrew. Designed by Nathan Karp.

Reverse: A stylized lighthouse, illuminating the inscription above "A DECADE OF EILAT'S PORT" in Hebrew. Designed by Rothschild and Lippmann. Proof mark "M" at the bottom rim.

Mintage Quantity:

Unc — 30,000. Proof — 7,500. Minted at the State Mint, Utrecht, Holland.

The **ALEPH BETH** Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by **Edward Janis**

Coins of Modern Israel are collected in many ways:

1) By date, that is, one date for each denomination; 2) By type or series, viz: one coin of each of the pruta series or one coin of each of the agora series. It may also be of a commemorative series such as the one-pound, the five-pound or *the ten-pound pieces; 3) By varieties, that is, the same coin denomination in different sizes, metals, edges, finishes, designs, etc.

A good way to start is to request visitors to bring "one of each" of the current legal tender, or to look in foreign coin boxes in local coin shops. These coins historically never really increase in value in proportion to true uncirculated coins. You may obtain information from the Office of the Assistant Trade Commissioner, Israel Government, 850 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022, or receive them at issuer's cost as they are issued, if you are a member in good standing of the American Israel Numismatic Association. The foregoing is equally true of medals, paper money and tokens. The Israel Government has issued presentation sets. In the past they were eighteen different trade coins. In 1963 uncirculated sets of 6 current coins were issued in decorative sealed holders. Since 1965, these sets were proof-like coins in informative sealed holders.

The Shekel will bring you timely articles on the foregoing, but a handbook or catalog such as "The History of Modern Israel's Money" by Sylvia Haffner is recommended for its completeness and detailed knowledge. Is-

rael's coins generally fall into the following classes:

1) **TRADE COINS** — those coins which were struck for circulation and were to be used in daily business for the purchase of goods and services within Israel. To date, this has consisted of two series. The mil and pruta series, now obsolete, contained nine different denominations which have been systematically withdrawn and reduced to scrap since January 1, 1960. This coinage has been replaced with a new series known as the agora series. In the pruta group, there was no change of date, except if there was a change in design, size, metal, edge device, etc. In the agora series, the date on the coin represents the actual year of striking.

2) **COMMEMORATIVE COINS** — have been issued annually since the 10th anniversary in 1958. The five-pound series is complete to date in both proof and regular issues. The one-pound series was issued until 1963. In 1960 two pieces have the English date although the Hebrew dates are 5720 and 5721 respectively. This accounts for the lack of an English date for 1959. Half-shekel commemorative Purim coins were struck in 1961 and 1962. Gold commemorative coins were issued for Theodor Herzl in 1960, two for Dr. Chaim Weizmann in 1962, for the 10th anniversary of the Bank of Israel in 1964, and a victory coin in 1967 commemorating the six day war. At this date only the Herzl 20-pound gold piece may be possessed by an American collector.

(Continued on page 46)

(Continued from page 19)

hoards in the so-called Palestine area extend from Ptolemais in the north to Gaza in the south.

'THE SHEKEL' believes that it can have something for everybody. Realizing, of course, that there exists far more embryo than advanced collectors, emphasis will naturally lean to the beginner. If in the kindergarten of numismatics, you may want to fill a coin board with a modern coin date or type set, and do not even want to know the background of these space fillers — fine — we'll help you get the dates and types. If you want to progress — to read the dates or link the grapes, palmtree, anchor on modern Israel trade coins with the ancestral counterparts — great — we'll help you. In future issues of 'THE SHEKEL' look forward to the story and illustrations of the modern currency of Israel. The United States was not unique in the issuance of fractional currency. Israel's fractional notes are well sought after by paper collectors. Would you believe that most of the issues were

engraved and printed in The Bronx-based American Banknote Company?

If commemorative coins are your forte, be assured that 'THE SHEKEL' will cover all past and future issues. Medal collectors will likewise enjoy the full background information and photos of their vast beautiful series.

To an advanced student of numismatics, we offer you a sounding board for the presentation of fact or the advancement of theory. You may disagree with the current conceptions on the cup on the shekel of the Jewish-Roman War 66-70 A.D. Perhaps the fruit on the reverse (pomegranate, 3 ethrogs, lily, or whatever) should be reviewed. We'll publish your paper. Literary awards will be made by AINA, but more about that at a future date. From THE ALEPH-BETH (the beginner's page) to the researched numismatic essays, 'THE SHEKEL' will endeavour to be informative without using the scientific language of archeologists and numismatists. We will crawl before we will walk. Join us — it could be an interesting journey.

(Continued from page 28)

Only 4 specimens of this coin are known to exist. One in the British Museum; 1 in Tel Aviv; 1 in the Hermitage Collection in Leningrad and the 4th one is now in the hands of a dealer.

The here reproduced photographs are made from plaster casts of the

coin supplied by the Hermitage Collection in Leningrad and my friend Leonard Forrer kindly gave me permission to use the pictures for this article.

So for this time I say shalom to my readers and mazel tov on the founding of the A.I.N.A.



(Continued from page 44)

Modern Israel coinage is relatively new, so that American collectors do not classify grade in numerous conditions, i.e., poor, good, fine, uncirculated, and proof, each with their sub-classifications of about and very. Israel coins are sought in either circulated or uncirculated condition. Both American and Israel minting authorities recognize that proof coins and proof-like coins are special coins made for collectors, and not for general circulation. There are differences. A true proof coin is made from specially polished planchets (blanks), struck from specially polished dies

and coined under much greater pressure than ordinary coins. If only one or two of the foregoing is used in the striking of special coinage the result will be a proof-like coin. With the exception of the one- and five-pound 10th anniversary commemorative issues of 1958/5719, Israel's proof coins are marked with the Hebrew letter "mem" (abbreviation for Meyuchad, meaning special).

This page welcomes inquiries from beginners. If editorial space is not available, the staff will endeavour to answer by mail.

(Continued from page 24)



Obverse: bears the emblem of the State of Israel: the seven-branched candelabrum (**menorah**) between two olive branches joined at the bottom by the word 'Israel' in Hebrew characters (this same **menorah** can be found in bas-relief on the Arch of Titus in the ruins of the Forum in Rome, depicting the spoils of the Temple carried off by the Romans after its destruction in 70 CE). On the left, 'Israel' in Latin characters, on the right in Arabic.

Reverse: numeral $\frac{1}{2}$ to the right; 'Lira Yisraelit' and the year 5728 in Hebrew characters underneath.

Metal: Cupronickel (75% copper, 25% nickel); weight: 6.8 gm; diameter: 24.5 mm; milled edge.



Obverse: is dominated by a representation of three pomegranates, based on the **shekel** of the First Revolt (66-70 CE). To the lower left is a small shield carrying the seven-branched candelabrum (**menorah**), symbol of the Jewish State, a design which was the main feature of the obverse of the old one-pound coin.

Reverse: presents a simple, modernistic treatment of the statement of the coin's value in Hebrew characters, with the date below at the base. On each side of the numeral 1 is a star, based on a coin of Alexander Yannai (103 BCE).

Metal: Cupronickel (75% copper, 25% nickel), weight: 9 gm; diameter: 27.5 mm; milled edge.



(Continued from page 30)

edge of only one such note in the hands of a private collector. The first issue of Israel's notes is most difficult to obtain in crisp condition. The 500 Mils is never offered and the 10 Pounds very seldom in crisp condition, whereas the 1952, 1955, 1958 and 1960 issues have recently all become available in crisp condition.

The first fractional banknotes of Israel were issued in October of 1948, by The Treasury, Government of Israel. They were printed by E. Levin-Epstein Press Ltd. in Israel by the Government Printer and designed by Otte Wallish. They were issued in two denominations, 50 Mils and 100 Mils. The 50 Mils had a printing of 500,000 and 100 Mils a printing of 1,643,000. These notes were withdrawn in 1950 and destroyed, although they are still legal tender and redeemable at face value by the Bank of Israel. I don't imagine they redeem many, considering the cost of one today is from \$50.00 up! The fact that they were destroyed as they were withdrawn makes the first issue of fractional notes extremely scarce. Counterfeits are known to exist.

FIRST MEDAL

The first medal of Israel was issued by a committee nominated by the Prime Minister in 1958. During the celebration of the tenth anniversary of Israel's statehood, it was decided by the Israel Government to mark the event by striking a special medal along with the five-lira pound commemorative coin. The Anniversary Committee selected a theme to symbolize the turning point from bondage to freedom by the use of the "Judaea Capta" ancient coin issued by Rome after the Jewish-Roman war of CE 66-70. The medal was designed by Otte Wallish from a sketch by Dr. Leo Kadman. These medals were issued by the

Jacob Japhet Co., bankers, with the blessings of the Government of Israel. The incuse edge inscription reads, "ISRAEL GOVERNMENT APPROVED ISSUE" with the date "1948-1958" between two State emblems.

The medals were struck in gold and silver with a mintage of 10,000 each. They were received with enormous enthusiasm, and were sold out within a few weeks. In view of the great success of this first experiment, it was decided to continue the issue of suitable medals and to place this task with a special department of the Prime Minister. In 1962 this department was reorganized into the present Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation Ltd. which has been headed by a young and enterprising Director-General, Yitzhak Avni, since 1963.

The first issue of medals in gold and silver, dated 1958, are extremely scarce. The gold piece is offered more frequently than the silver issue. There has been some controversy as to whether or not these medals are a government issue. Their legality as a government issue is determined by the edge inscription which contains the State emblem, which cannot be issued by anyone but the Government of Israel. Although the medals were executed by private citizens rather than government officials, it is nevertheless the State of Israel's first official medal.



CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE OF "THE SHEKEL"

MORRIS BRAM, President of A.I.N.A. — (New York City). Mr. Bram is a businessman in private life. As a numismatist, he belongs to some ten organizations. They are AINA, ANA, ANS, CNA, TAMS, AVA, OIN and some local clubs. He is presently the president of the Israel Numismatic Society of N. Y. and past president of Brooklyn, and Long Island Coin Clubs. He was the recipient of many national and local awards as a numismatist and exhibitor.

NATHAN SOBEL, Editor-in-Chief — "THE SHEKEL" — (New York City). Engineer and City Planner, presently associated with the City of New York as a Project Development Coordinator. He attended the Hebrew University — Israel, Florida State University, Brooklyn College — B.S. (1959), and Columbia University School of Architecture — M.S. in Urban Planning and Housing (1962). Mr. Sobel is the author of several technical publications. He is also an inventor, philatelist, a numismatist for about 10 years and belongs to several technical and numismatic societies. Nat is also a Board Director of Israel Numismatic Society of N. Y.

MAURICE FRANKENHUIS, Director of A.I.N.A. — (New York City). As a numismatist for close to 60 years, he is widely recognized for his contribution to the archives of the 20th Century. Thanks to his unique talent, he was able to gather 2 major collections of various documents, medals, coins and other items relating to World War I (1914-1918), and to World War II (1939-1945), widely known as the Frankenhuis Collections, parts of which were donated to various museums, in England, the Netherlands, the U.S.A. and Israel.

NATHAN R. GOLDMAN, Director of A.I.N.A. — (New York City). Mr. Goldman has been an attorney for 40 years. He attended the University of Pennsylvania — B.S. (1924), L.L.B. (1927), and is affiliated with the following groups: The American Academy of Political & Social Sciences, American Bar Assoc., Bar Assoc. of the State of N. Y., N. Y. County Lawyers Assoc., and many others. He has also been a numismatist for 40 years, is a member of several numismatic organizations, and is a Board Director of the Israel Numismatic Society of N. Y.

SYLVIA HAFFNER, Director of A.I.N.A. — (La Mesa, Calif.). Mrs. Haffner, the great-great-grand-daughter of the famous Joseph Cantor Rosenblatt, has been interested in numismatics since 1960. She is affiliated with 10 numismatic societies. Among them are ANA, OIN, SIN, and others. Her research in the coins and currency of Israel led to the publication of her book, *The History of Modern Israel's Money* (1967). She is currently serving as exhibit chairman for the 77th ANA Convention to be held in San Diego in August.

EDWARD JANIS, Director of A.I.N.A. — (New York City). Mr. Janis is a businessman in private life. He became interested in numismatics in 1950. Two years later he was elected as Fellow of the ANS. He is currently president of the Westchester Coin Club, and is ex-president of the Bronx Coin Club, member of the Brooklyn Coin Club, and Board Director of the Israel Numismatic Society of New York.

LEON T. LINDHEIM, Contributing Editor — (Cleveland). Mr. Lindheim, a graduate of Dartmouth College (1934), is a Senior Vice President and Secretary of The Continental Bank of Cleveland. He has always been a numismatist, is a life member of ANA, Fellow of ANS, member of CNA and many other coin clubs. His column, "Coin-Wise," has appeared each Sunday in the Cleveland Plain Dealer since 1960, and is now nationally syndicated. Mr. Lindheim's book *Facts and Fictions About Coins* published in 1967, is now in its 2nd printing.

YA'AKOV MESHORER, Numismatic Consultant — (Jerusalem). Since his youth, Mr. Meshorer displayed great interest in the antiquities and ancient coins of Israel, the Land of his ancestors. This interest was intensified by his study of archeology and ancient history at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. It culminated in a book, "Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period," published in 1947 which is based upon his M.A. thesis. He has published numerous articles in learned journals, is the curator of the Archeological Museum in Israel, and is the Numismatic Consultant to the Israel Museum and to the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. He was a high ranking officer in the Israel Defense Forces in the recent 6 day war.

MATTHEW J. VAN DER VOORT, Director of A.I.N.A. — (Amsterdam). Mr. Van der Voort has been a coin collector since 1950. Since he retired in 1964, he has been devoting most of his time to numismatics. The phrase "Numismatics is the Pilgrimage of Mankind Struck in Metal and it Knows no Boundaries" was coined by him, and he has been very devout in following the coins' paths. His pilgrimages took him to Russia, to the U.S.A. 3 times, all over Europe and to Israel, all in pursuance of international numismatics. He is also a Board Director of INS of N. Y.

MEL WACKS, Director of A.I.N.A. — (Sacramento). Mr. Wacks has been collecting coins for 20 of his 30 years. He is interested in all phases of Jewish numismatics and specializes in the ancient Judaeon series. Mel enjoys exhibiting his coins and writing about his numismatic interests. He has written for several magazines, and is a member of the ANA, ANS, INS of N. Y. and several others. Mel is presently forming the Israel Numismatic Society of Northern California, which will meet at the Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum, for which he serves as Numismatic Consultant. He is also a Board Director of INS of N. Y.

AINA's Membership Card Emblem, and "The Shekel"

Membership Card Obverse



**AMERICAN ISRAEL
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

P.O. Box 3194 • Church Street Station • New York, N. Y. 10008

FOUNDED DECEMBER 1967

Charter Member _____ is certified to be in good standing _____ for year _____

Secretary-Treasurer _____ No. _____ Membership _____



THE EMBLEM.
The obverse of a Shekel of the first revolt, topped by AINA crown, all enclosed within an oval, inscribed — American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc.

		26 YEAR GUIDE TO ISRAEL'S COIN DATES	
		1961-1967	1968-1973
תש"א	5721	תשכ"א	5708
תשכ"ב	5722	תשכ"ב	5709
תשכ"ג	5723	תשכ"ג	5710
תשכ"ד	5724	תשכ"ד	5711
תשכ"ה	5725	תשכ"ה	5712
תשכ"ו	5726	תשכ"ו	5713
תשכ"ז	5727	תשכ"ז	5714
תשכ"ח	5728	תשכ"ח	5715
תשכ"ט	5729	תשכ"ט	5716
תשל"א	5730	תשל"א	5717
תשל"ב	5731	תשל"ב	5718
תשל"ג	5732	תשל"ג	5719
תשל"ד	5733	תשל"ד	5720

Formula:

To find the Hebrew year for a given date, add the year of Israel's independence (1948) to the year of the date.

Notes:

1. Denotes the numerical equivalent of the Hebrew year.

Example:

1948 + 1968 = 3916. The corresponding Hebrew year is 5716.

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Reverse

AINA's EMBLEM and MEMBERSHIP CARD were prepared and designed by Nathan Sobel, editor of "The Shekel," and were officially adopted by the Board of Directors on January 8, 1968. The reverse of the MEMBERSHIP CARD is a handy guide to the dates of Israel Coins. It presents a date conversion formula for the first time. The card is copyrighted.

"THE SHEKEL," representing the most popular Hebrew Biblical coin, was proposed by Nathan Sobel, as the name of AINA's publication. It was unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors on December 8, 1967.

ISRAEL'S 10 CROWNS

1958-1962

1963-1967

Obverse

Reverse

Obverse

Reverse



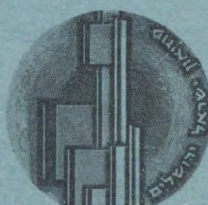
1958
Menora 10th Anniversary



1963
Seafaring



1959
Ingathering of the Exiles



1964
Israel Museum, Jerusalem



1960
Herzl Centenary



1965
The Knesset



1961
Bar Mitzvah



1966
Am Israel Hai (Life)



1962
Development of the Negev



1967
The Port of Eilat

(See pages 42 and 43)